(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Import of pulses

3536. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to import 15 lakh tonnes pulses to contain the rise in prices hitting hard the poor people;

(b) by when the imported pulses will reach the country giving the details of the importers, at what rate the imported pulses will be available to the common man and what will be the difference of rates between the indigenous and imported pulses;

(c) whether any decision has also been taken to import edible oil, prices of which are also sky-rocketting;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has decided to import 15 lakh tonnes of pulses such as Urad, Tur, Moong, Masur, Gram and Yellow Peas through National Agriculture Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC), PEC Ltd. and State Trading Corporation (STC). The pulses will be imported at the most competitive prices available in the international market. As on April 25, 2007, 2.87 lakh tonnes of pulses have been contracted and 52,039 tonnes have alredy reached the Indian ports.

(c) to (e) Edible oils are under the Open General License and they have been imported as there is always an excess demand over domestic supply. No specific decision has been taken by Government to import edible oils in the current financial year.